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Reflection #1

*How do the ideals of social justice, collaboration, critical self-evaluation and diversity align with our course objectives and outcomes, and pertain to us in our role as pedagogues?*

All institutions were built with two concepts in mind; evolving with current trends, and to stand the test of time. Therefore, a mission statement is born. A mission statement is a creed, a promise that no matter what happened within society; these guide lines will and must be followed. The more dedicated your mission statement is to the vast majority the more substance you have, the more popular you will grow, and the more dedicated you will become. Brooklyn College foundation is built on the basic rules that it will always seek to be fair to all rather the few, create symposiums to share and create ideas, where people can collaborate. To allow all to self evaluate, and grow from their experiences. Finally, knowing that populations grow and with growth become more and more diverse any institution who deals with the public must meet the needs of the public; Therefore Brooklyn College created the Conceptual Framework. This framework is the heartbeat of the institution and is what Brooklyn College prides it’s self of how dedicated it is to the teaching profession and to educators.

As populations grow so too does diversity. Many new people, many new ideas, eventually creates new needs. To meet these needs of the student body, Brooklyn College created the conceptual framework, and within this concept they focused on ***diversity, collaboration, social justice, critical self-reflection, and reflective practices***; which they refer to as the Four Themes. Collaboration was chosen as a “pillar” because people need to share ideas; and they need to feel comfortable in doing so. Students in public schools (as young as Pre-K) share ideas everyday and by the time they come to college they need to be experts at listening and building upon other’s ideas. Social justice is a critical “pillar” to include because it creates intolerance of ignorance and creates a safe environment. It also allows students to know that how they feel, and what they say, will be respected and taken seriously. Lastly, critical self-reflection and reflective practices makes sense in being one of the four themes because if you do not learn and grow from your work then how do you plan to teach it to others?

I feel these four themes fit well into our objectives because we as educators are aware that our (college) class is made up of diverse students and should respect our tone when speaking to and about cultures. We are aware that everyone is different in their thoughts and actions and that everyone does not share the same opinion. And when working with and collaborating with different populations, we need to be respectful of that; which ties in social justice as well. It will not be tolerated if diversity is not respected within our classroom. Of course collaboration fits comfortably into our objectives. We are constantly sharing our ideas not only in class but on Black Board as well. We are encouraged to use the discussion board as a way to share ideas or ask questions to our respective classmates. Critical self reflection and reflective practices are the heartbeat of our course. It is what drives our course work and is essential to our practice of research and development. Without critical self reflection and reflective practices how could we conduct fair, smart and relevant research and choose topics that directly affect our schools? Without these four themes our school, and course work would have no alignment, no substance and more importantly no relevance to society.